

This update is critical because, while the current law prohibits the destruction of religious real property, it did not previously specify that threats against religious real property, such as threats of violence against Jewish community centers, are also hate crimes.

Finally, while this bill addresses religious hate crimes, we must remember that the motivations behind hate crimes extend far beyond religion. It does not matter if it is a crime based on one's religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or any other element of our shared humanity.

I am hopeful that the Judiciary Committee can continue to work together to protect all victims of hate, regardless of whom they are, whom they love, where they worship, or where they are from. Thank you.

HARD RELEASES OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, through the Wilderness Act of 1965, Congress reserves the authority to designate as Wilderness Areas certain Federal lands with remarkable natural and ecological values. Over the last 53 years, the Wilderness Act has been referred to as the gold standard of conservation, providing the highest level of protections for some of America's most treasured public lands. In addition to congressionally designated Wilderness Areas, the Wilderness Act gave the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to study and evaluate the wilderness characteristics of public lands under their respective jurisdictions. Once identified, the Forest Service manages lands with wilderness potential as an "inventoried roadless area," and the Bureau of Land Management manages lands with wilderness potential as "wilderness study areas." These designations are not always without controversy but are critical in providing a measure of interim protection for wilderness-quality lands while Congress deliberates on further, permanent protections.

The Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act, which the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported yesterday, adjusts the boundaries of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area in Central Oregon, removing over 600 acres of land from interim protection under the Wilderness Act. The Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Areas contains cultural and historical artifacts, provides drinking water for thousands of Oregonians, and provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife species, some of which are threatened or endangered.

Proponents of this legislation argue that the release of the acres from interim protection under the wilderness study area designation is necessary. According to the proponents, the "release" language was necessary to allow Federal land managers greater flexibility in conducting hazardous fuels re-

duction projects to better protect the adjacent community, Crooked River Ranch, from the threat of wildfires. In truth, hazardous fuels reduction projects technically could have taken place under existing land designations.

Adding insult to injury, the Crooked River Fire Protection Act originally gave no direction on how the BLM should manage the released lands. In addition, the original bill fell short in addressing the wildfire concerns while allowing for the release of wilderness study area acreage from interim protection without any corresponding lands protections. This is just a lost opportunity for compromise and comity. In an attempt to provide local landowners some measure of certainty over how the released lands will be managed, I worked to clarify that the released lands will be managed in a way that improves fire resiliency and forest health, while preventing off-road recreational vehicle use, which could actually increase the risk of wildfires.

While these changes do not address the future management of the entire Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area, it does provide management direction for the released lands and pushes the BLM to meet the goals of the legislation: to promote fire resiliency and forest health. I am committed to finding a path forward for a solution for the entire wilderness study area in line with the traditions of compromise and doing things the Oregon way.

HONORING OFFICERS JAMES WHITE, WALTER MOAK AND JOSH SMITH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, flags in Mississippi are flying at half-staff as my State mourns the loss of hometown heroes. The Mississippi Highway Patrol Honor Guard stands vigil over three fallen comrades, who swore to protect and serve their communities.

Mississippi law enforcement lost three officers in 2 days.

Early Saturday morning in Brookhaven, Officer James Kevin White of Sontag and Corporal Walter Zachery Marshall Moak of Brookhaven gave their lives in the line of duty.

On Sunday, off-duty Mississippi Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Joshlin "Josh" Smith of Walnut was fatally shot near the Tippah and Alcorn county line.

James was 35. Zach was 31. Josh was 32. They leave behind children, wives, parents, and siblings, but they will be remembered not only by their families, but by grateful communities. I know this because I live in Brookhaven. These men protected my family and my neighbors, and I am so thankful for their service.

Local media in Brookhaven and Corinth have published tributes to these men, their service, and those they have left behind.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a September 29, 2018, article

from Brookhaven Daily Leader, titled, "Officers Remembered as Men of Service," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICERS REMEMBERED AS MEN OF SERVICE

(By Adam Northam)

James Kevin White wasn't about to give up the fight.

He was serving with the Mississippi National Guard in Iraq when his convoy rolled over a roadside bomb, flinging shrapnel into his knee and tearing at his face. The wounds were serious, and the Army gave Lincoln County's White a chance to go home.

"He said, 'No,'" said White's sister, Lisa White of Vicksburg. "He was still able to walk and fight, and that's what he was gonna do. He wasn't going to give up, or take an easy way out. He stayed, throughout his tour."

White, 35, came home from the war and went straight into law enforcement, and he served the community in that role for the rest of his life, until his death in the line of duty in Brookhaven Saturday morning. He'd been in the Guard since he was 17, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late J.C. White Jr., a military veteran, and serving the law was just the next step.

"He just wanted things to be right. He wanted to make a difference," his sister said. "He lived and breathed law enforcement—he'd have given me a ticket for going 5 miles over the speed limit I wasn't safe. Nobody was."

White got into law enforcement through communications, working as a dispatcher for the Mississippi Highway Patrol. He went to the academy, but the knee injury from Iraq forced him to drop out. He started a family—his boys, 8-year-old J.C. and 7-year-old Lee, go to school at Enterprise Attendance Center, their father's alma mater—and put law enforcement on hold as long as he could.

But service brought him back. He worked as a deputy for the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office from 2016-2018.

"He was a good officer, and he loved law enforcement," said Lawrence County Sheriff Lessie Butler. He remembers White's attention to detail. "His uniform had to be just about perfect," he said.

Cpl. Brandon Fortenberry with the Mississippi Highway Patrol knew White about 10 years, and the two talked often when both were out on the patrol, even when they were no longer working in the same agency.

"He was always a go-getter. He was not one to turn back, he always had a leader's mindset," Fortenberry said. "He was always the one I could trust to come back me up on those late-night shifts. I could depend on him being there for me."

White's sister said he loved his boys, loved her own children. His passing has left an emptiness in the hearts of his family, who are coming together from across the South to mourn him.

"I don't know how I feel," she said. "I don't know what I think. I just don't know."

The other Brookhaven officer lost Saturday was also raised with a heart of service.

"When Zach was growing up, we told him, 'Whatever you want to do—do whatever makes you happy,'" said Janie Stogner, owner of Janie's Pastry Shop. "We told him, 'That's what you go for.'"

What made Lincoln County's Zach Moak, 31, happy was service.

So, he went for it.

Stogner's nephew became a law enforcement officer, serving as a reserve deputy

with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, a part-time policeman with the Wesson Police Department and finally going full time with the Brookhaven Police Department. He was a servant of the law, and a servant of men, and he was carrying out that service when he died in the line of duty shortly before 5 a.m. Saturday.

"He's died a hero, trying to protect and take care of our town, and people need to know that," Stogner said. "He put everybody first—everybody came before him. He never done for himself. We've lost somebody real special."

Moak was a 2006 graduate of Enterprise Attendance Center, a capable football player who helped the Yellow Jackets make the playoffs. Former principal Shannon Eubanks said his entire class was full of service-minded youth.

"One of those graduates is in the U.S. Marines, several became teachers, others were in nursing—Zach was in a close-knit group in a service class," he said. "He was a very likable guy, just a good guy—a quiet kid, didn't cause any problems. He's going to be greatly missed by the community."

Lincoln County Sheriff Steve Rushing said Moak got his start in law enforcement by going through the law enforcement academy and serving in the reserve deputy program.

"He was a super-nice guy who loved working in law enforcement. Dedicated to his job," Rushing said. "You could always depend on him to work the details. He loved his job."

Moak moved on to Wesson, where his boss was chief Chad O'Quinn.

"We enjoyed him being a part of our family in Wesson," O'Quinn said. "I was happy for him when he was able to pursue a full-time career in law enforcement. He will be dearly missed by us all."

Pike County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Blake went through training with Moak, whom he regarded as a brother.

"Best man I ever knew," Blake said. "He treated everybody with respect, no matter who you were or what your background was. That didn't change him. When we got into law enforcement together, we both decided we'd give people the chance to change. Whoever steps up on the BPD midnight shift has some massive shoes to fill."

Moak's father is Marshall Moak, and his mother is Vicki Nations Moak, who runs the Enterprise Drive Inn. His brother, Christopher Moak, lives in Natchez.

Vicki Moak said her son got started in law enforcement as an auxiliary officer working security at football games. He signed up for police academy and was accepted—before he told his mother.

"I think he thought I'd try to talk him out of it," she said. "I just said, 'Is this where your heart is? You'll have a lot coming at you, and I just want you to be prepared.' He said, 'I know, momma,' and he loved every minute of it. When he was able to help someone, he felt good about it."

Vicki Moak, her face dried from a Saturday long with tears, recalled her son's baptism.

"I know where he's at right now, and that gives me peace," she said.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that excerpts from an October 1, 2018, article from *Corinth Today*, titled, "Residents React to Hatchie Bottom Tragedy," pertaining to Patrolman Josh Smith be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *Corinth Today*, Oct. 1, 2018]

RESIDENTS REACT TO HATCHIE BOTTOM TRAGEDY

(By Josh Mitchell)

The circumstances that led to an off-duty Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper being shot and killed remain unclear.

Josh Smith, 32, was pronounced deceased in Hatchie Bottom near the Alcorn/Tippah County line at around 12:45 a.m. Sunday.

Retired Mississippi Highway Patrolman Freddie Corbin said "all troopers are like family" and that Smith was a "good person" who would always help people.

Corbin added that Smith was a husband and father and loved being part of the highway patrol.

Smith had recently had foot surgery and was assigned to light duty helping out at the driver's license office in Corinth, Corbin noted.

Smith worked the Tippah County area while Corbin was assigned to Prentiss County, but both were part of the same Troop F, based in New Albany. Corbin said some people joked that they were the "F Troop."

Corbin also said Smith was part of the MHP SWAT team and was a member of the motorcycle unit.

Corbin works security in the same place where Smith was helping with the driver's license office. Smith had a quiet demeanor, and Corbin said he saw him last Wednesday.

For the past two days all he has thought about is Smith getting killed.

"He was an outstanding guy," Corbin added.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, hearts are broken in Mississippi as families and friends mourn. Please keep these families and communities in your prayers as they face the difficult times ahead. I hope they will find comfort in knowing these fallen law enforcement officers will be remembered with deep appreciation and gratitude.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES J. CONNELL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, along with Senator CHRIS COONS and Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER of Delaware, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the life of LCDR James J. Connell, of Wilmington, DE. J.J. passed away on January 14, 1971, at the age of 32, at the hands of Vietnamese guards during the Vietnam war after being held as a POW. In life and death, J.J. epitomized the best of the country's selfless citizens who put their lives on the line during the Vietnam war. His service exemplifies the unwavering courage, devotion to duty, and honor that he had and reminds us all of how good we can be.

J.J. Connell was born on May 6, 1939, in Wilmington, DE, attending Salesianum High School until 1957. Following this, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy on June 7, 1961, after having spent some time in Congress as a page. By 1962, he was designated as a naval aviator. After additional training, he was assigned as a flight instructor at NAAS Whiting Field, FL. He then served with Attack Squadron 55 aboard the USS *Ticonderoga*, then at NAS Lemoore, CA,

until deploying on the USS *Ranger* on December 1964. After 7 months of combat, he was shot down over North Vietnam on July 15, 1966. Though he only sustained minor injuries, rescue efforts were impossible in the high-threat area he landed in, and consequently, he was captured.

J.J. was captured by the North Vietnamese at a time when U.S. prisoners were declared as criminals and subjected to brutal conditions such as isolation, beatings, starvation, and other means of torture. Despite the heinous means of brutal force the Vietnamese used, J.J. refused to fold under pressure, demonstrating courage and determination beyond his years. He was in captivity for 1,645 days before his death, with his remains returning to the United States on March 6, 1974. He left behind two children who would never know their father and a wife who had previously waited years hoping that J.J. would return home alive.

Though it seems that time may have forgotten J.J. Connell, it is imperative that we remember the hard work and dedication he put into protecting our country and keeping it safe. Posthumously, he was awarded with the Navy Cross, the second highest award for valor after the Medal of Honor and the highest award of valor presented to any Delawarean during the Vietnam war. J.J. was a true hero, and is an inspiration to us all even today.

Along with Senator CHRIS COONS and Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, I wish to commemorate J.J., to celebrate his life, and to offer his family our deepest sympathy on their tragic loss.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES H. ARNOLD, GEORGE P. SMITH, AND GREGORY P. WINTER

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the awarding of the Nobel Prize in chemistry to three outstanding scientists, Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith, and Gregory P. Winter, for using evolutionary principles to create new enzymes. Their work marks a remarkable leap forward in human knowledge and technology, and I salute these scientists on their honor.

The use of evolutionary techniques to create enzymes has led to new developments in numerous fields, from health to biofuel technology. Through the use of directed evolution, scientists and researchers have been able to speed up the processes of nature and to tackle some of our most challenging problems. These achievements would not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Arnold, Dr. Smith, and Sir Gregory Winter.

Dr. Arnold hails from my home State of California and has worked as a professor at the California Institute of Technology. I am proud of the role that Caltech played in making this discovery possible. Dr. Arnold received